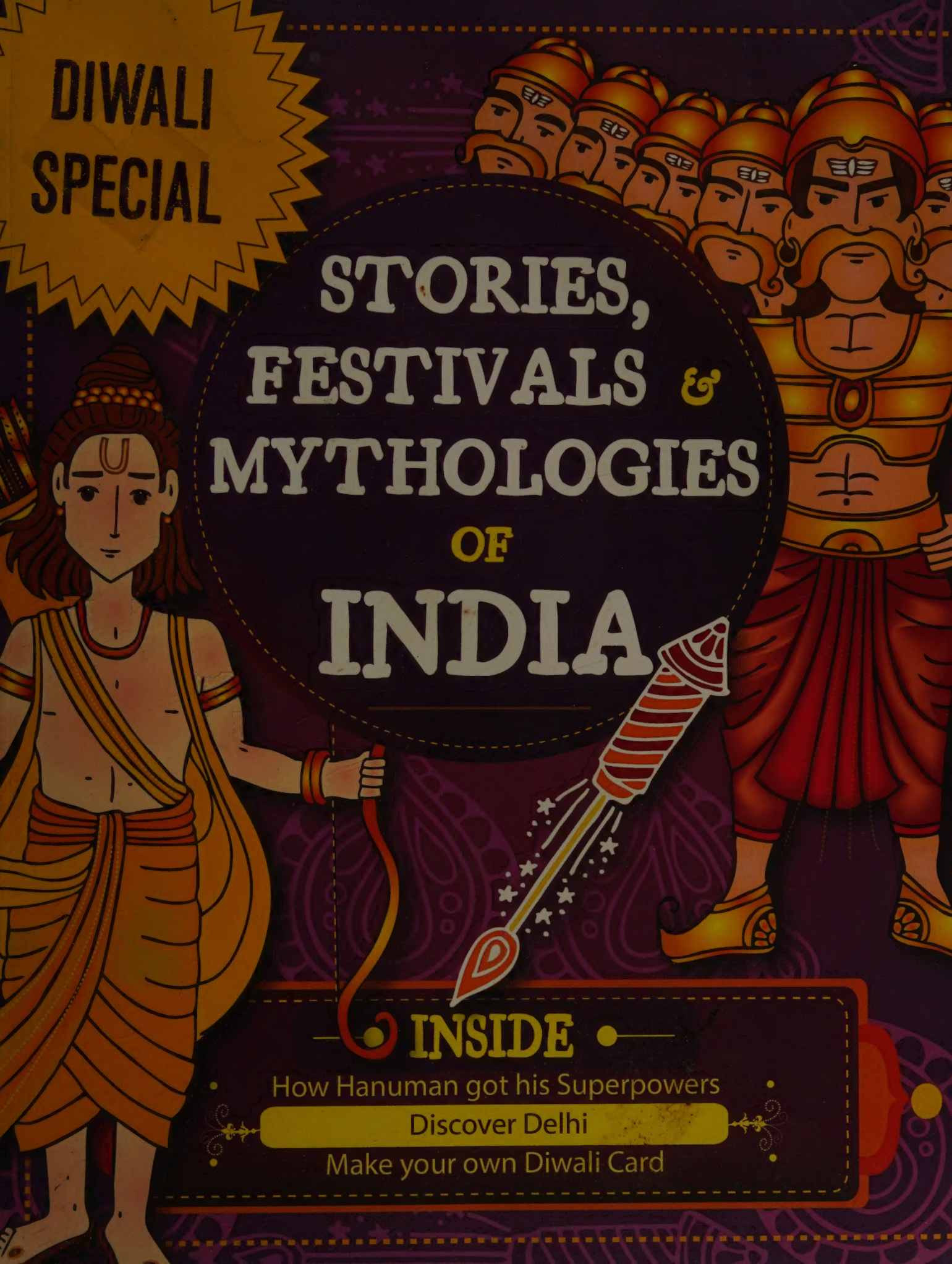
DIWALI SPECIAL

STORIES, FESTIVALS & MYTHOLOGIES OF INDIA



INSIDE

How Hanuman got his Superpowers

Discover Delhi

Make your own Diwali Card

WHAT IS INSIDE?

Read

- The Story Of Diwali
- How Anjaneya Became Hanuman?
- Jatak Katha
- Akbar Birbal

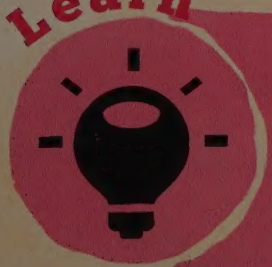
Make

- DIY Diwali Card
- Ram & Ravan Coloring Page
- How To Draw Squirrel

Play

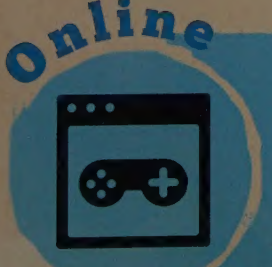
- Hanuman Crossword
- Aunty Bindi's Riddles
- Camel Word Search
- Victoria Maze
- Spot The Difference Palkhi

Learn



- Discover Delhi
- Discover Victoria Memorial
- Why Do Squirrels Have Stripes?

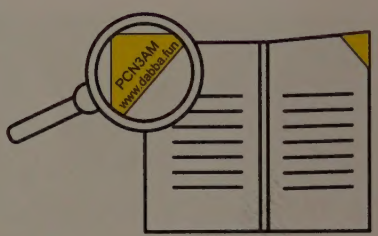
Online



- Diwali Jigsaw
- Fireworks Memory Game
- Online Quiz
- Kumbhakaran Spot The Difference

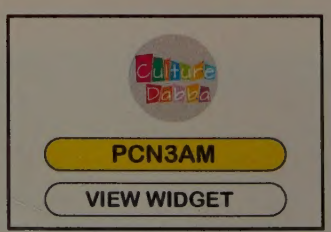
ARE YOU READY?

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO HAVING THE MOST FUN WITH THIS BOOK!



1 THIS BOOK CONTAINS FREE INTERACTIVE LEARNING GAMES. HOW DO YOU ACCESS IT, YOU ASK? SIMPLE, LOOK AT THE TOP CORNER FOR THIS ICON.

2 SIMPLY LAUNCH A WEB BROWSER (LIKE CHROME OR SAFARI) AND GO TO WWW.DABBA.FUN



3 ENTER THE 6 DIGIT GAME CODE FROM PAGE E.G. 'PCN3AM'. PRESS THE BUTTON, AND HAVE FUN!

THE STORY OF DIWALI

Ravan was the demon king of Lanka, an island country. He had imprisoned Sita, wife of Ram. Ram was the prince of Ayodhya, and its future king. In this story, the army of Ram and Ravan are facing each other, ready for a war. Ram tries to settle this peacefully, and here is how it goes.

Ram faces Ravan in the battlefield

Ravan, return my Sita to me,
And I will show you my mercy,
You know you have been a bully,
Apologize, and we go peacefully!

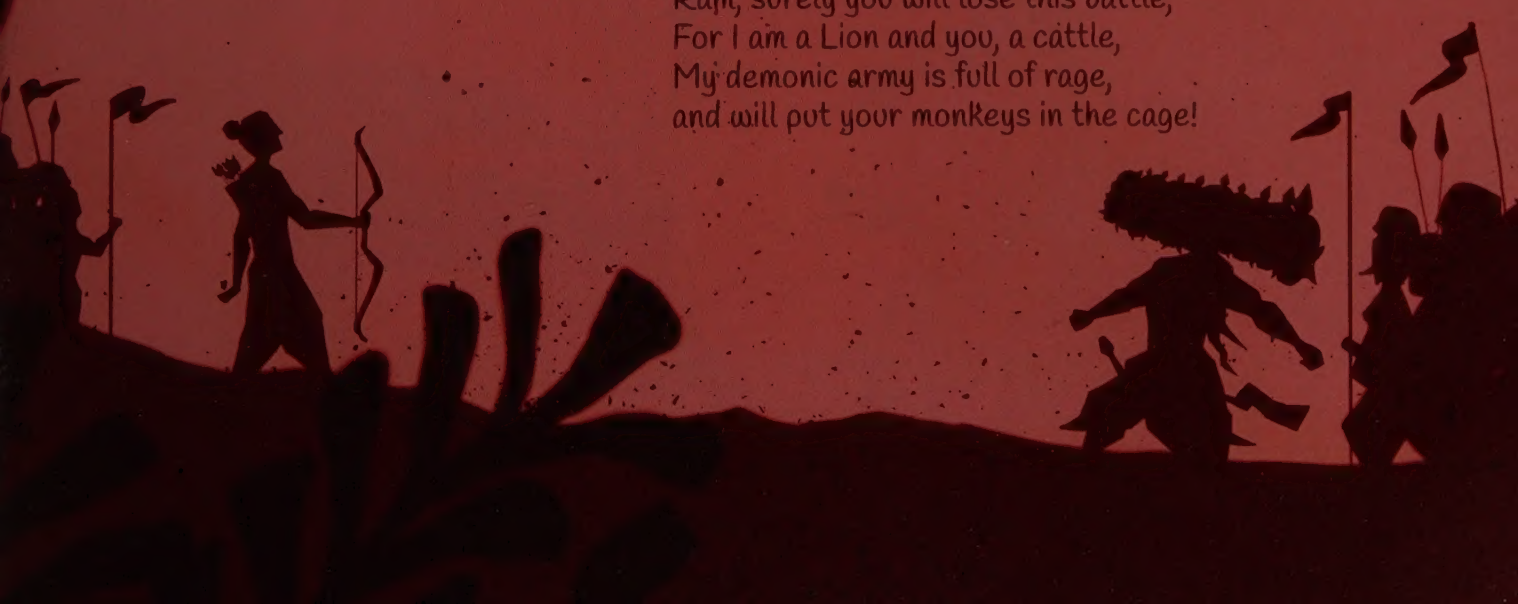
Ram, you have caused me some pain,
Sita will not be with you ever again,
Today I will avenge my family,
Be ready, for I fight mercilessly!

Ravan, stop this madness while you can,
Or prepare to lose your weapon and men,
Fighting is not a solution you see,
To problems, however big they may be!

Ram, you are playing a dangerous game,
Don't put your people to this shame,
I am the mighty Lanka King,
And this fight will clip your wing!

Ravan, I am not afraid of you,
I know this is the right thing to do,
So bring your soldiers and your might,
I am not backing from this fight!

Ram, surely you will lose this battle,
For I am a Lion and you, a cattle,
My demonic army is full of rage,
and will put your monkeys in the cage!



Ravan, while my army is small and light,
The power of truth is on our side,
Your demons may be big and tall,
But my army will defeat them all!

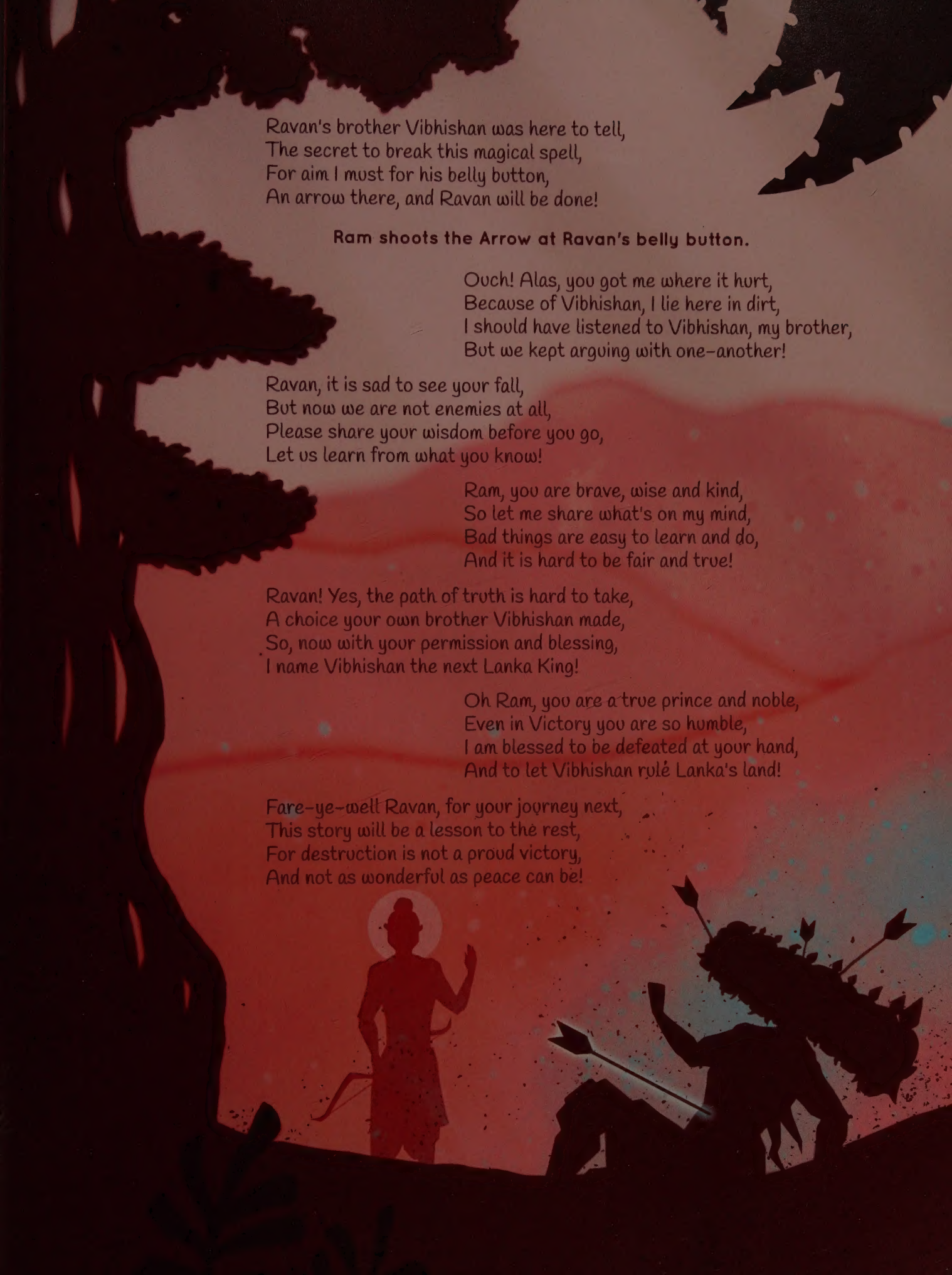
Ram, to me will this victory belong,
For my army is 10,000 demon strong,
Let's not waste time in talk,
Fight me, or surrender and walk!

Ravan, think about this battle's cost,
Of innocent lives that will be lost,
It is sad to see your arrogance,
For this is Lanka's last chance!

Enough Ram! I am ready for the show,
My arrow is drawn on my mighty bow,
Prepare for the fury of my fire,
I can finish you when I desire!

Ravan! Be warned for it's my turn,
My fiery arrows will make you burn,
But what is that, I don't understand,
I kill you, and again you stand?

Ha! I am a magical demon you see,
I have a boon, and no-one can kill me,
You can shoot arrows all day long,
But I am mightier than a king-kong!



Ravan's brother Vibhishan was here to tell,
The secret to break this magical spell,
For aim I must for his belly button,
An arrow there, and Ravan will be done!

Ram shoots the Arrow at Ravan's belly button.

Ouch! Alas, you got me where it hurt,
Because of Vibhishan, I lie here in dirt,
I should have listened to Vibhishan, my brother,
But we kept arguing with one-another!

Ravan, it is sad to see your fall,
But now we are not enemies at all,
Please share your wisdom before you go,
Let us learn from what you know!

Ram, you are brave, wise and kind,
So let me share what's on my mind,
Bad things are easy to learn and do,
And it is hard to be fair and true!

Ravan! Yes, the path of truth is hard to take,
A choice your own brother Vibhishan made,
So, now with your permission and blessing,
I name Vibhishan the next Lanka King!

Oh Ram, you are a true prince and noble,
Even in Victory you are so humble,
I am blessed to be defeated at your hand,
And to let Vibhishan rule Lanka's land!

Fare-ye-well Ravan, for your journey next,
This story will be a lesson to the rest,
For destruction is not a proud victory,
And not as wonderful as peace can be!

Ram meets Sita

Oh Ram, finally you are with me,
Just what my eyes needed to see,
Here you are, my handsome knight,
In a world of dark, you are my light!

Sita, without you I was incomplete,
To be away from you, was my big defeat,
I was not scared of anybody,
But I was afraid for your safety!

Ram, you traveled far, fought and won,
We were apart, and yet we were one,
Now like a pearl safe in its shell,
We are together again, and all is well!

Sita! Yes, we are one, now let us go,
To Ayodhya, our home of long ago,
For Fourteen years we have lived afar,
Ayodhya's King and Queen is who we are!

Ram and Sita reach Ayodhya

People in Ayodhya:

Hurry! Hurry! On with the preparation,
King Ram is coming, it's a celebration,
With him is Sita, and Hanuman the mighty,
What a great day, we call it Diwali!

Let's clean streets, and paint the wall,
We take out the trash, big and small,
Put lights, lamps and diyas everywhere,
Keep it safe from fire, handle with care!

Shops are full of shiny things to buy,
And kids are getting candies and toy,
Everyone is happy and looks good too,
With new clothes, jewellery and hairdo!

Let us celebrate, this day every year,
Bring family together, spread love and cheer,
Diwali is victory of good and right,
Let us all enjoy this festival of light!

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Celebrated on a night, moonless and dark,
Shiny lighted decorations make its mark,
Glittering with lamps and diyas bright,
No wonder its called a Festival of light!

DID YOU KNOW?

FLOOR DECORATION

Rangoli, the floor art looks beautiful,
It is made with powder and flowers colorful,
We make Lakshmi's footprints on the floor,
Her blessings bring wealth to our door!

NEW CLOTHES

Beautiful tradition that sets Diwali apart,
Is to dress up in new clothes and look smart!
With Silk Sarees, Kurtas and jewelry shining,
Everywhere you see, happy faces smiling!

NARAK CHATURDASHI

Narkasur harmed many and was mean,
Krishna defeated him with powers unseen,
A day before Diwali is that festival,
To mark Krishna's victory over evil!

HINDU NEW YEAR

For some this is considered as new year,
And start of new businesses, far and near!
Offices are cleaned up shiny and bright,
Books are worshipped with diyas and lights!

QCSHPM
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DHANTERAS

Dhanteras is celebrated two days before,
Everyone is busy shopping some more,
Clothes, Cars, Jewelry, Silver and Gold,
Dhanteras shopping brings luck, we are told!

DIWALI PUJA

We pray to Hanuman, Sita and Ram,
To keep us safe and away from harm,
We also worship Ganesh and Lakshmi,
For health, happiness and prosperity!

ELDER'S BLESSINGS

We hug young ones and touch elder's feet,
And we get gifts. Oh! That is sweet,
Then it is dinner time with family,
Such yummy food, we eat heartily!

DESSERTS

Mom also cooks up a special meal,
And her desserts are the real deal,
She makes Laddoos, Kheer and Gunjiya,
To offer as prasadam in Diwali Pooja!

FIREWORKS

Next up is the most fun thing,
It fills night sky with lightning,
Yes, it is time for some firecrackers,
Be safe when handling those sparklers!

ACRURP
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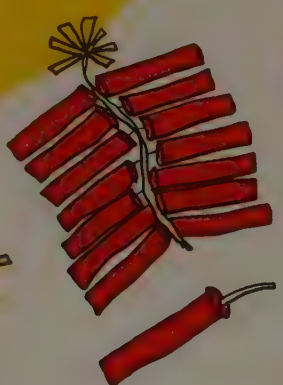
FIRE CRACKERS

Diwali is more than a festival of light, it is also a festival of fireworks. Sparklers, ground spinners, rockets and sound bombs are common.

However, fireworks pollute the air, and scare animals and birds, so it is a good idea to not do too much of them. Oh, and make sure you do it safely with a grown-up.

Here is an online fireworks game . Can you crack it?



DIY DIWALI CARD

UCSNV6
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INSTRUCTIONS

USE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO MAKE YOUR DIWALI CARD:

1. Cut out the card and the shapes along the scissor marks. ✂----------
2. Glue the shapes one on top of the other from big to small, like 2 on 1, 3 on 2, 4 on 3... to make the ground spinner. Use the picture of the ground spinner here to make it.
3. Now glue the ground spinner on the white circle in the card.

Yay! Your Diwali Card is ready :)

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KCR97K
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DIWALI MEMORIES

You know why festival and celebration are so special? Yeah, you get to eat yummy stuff, wear nice things and have fun all day without being reminded about your homework. But the best part is you get to make wonderful memories with your family and friends. See, here is a collection of Diwali memories...

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COLOR IT UP!

RAVAN

DCSMYK
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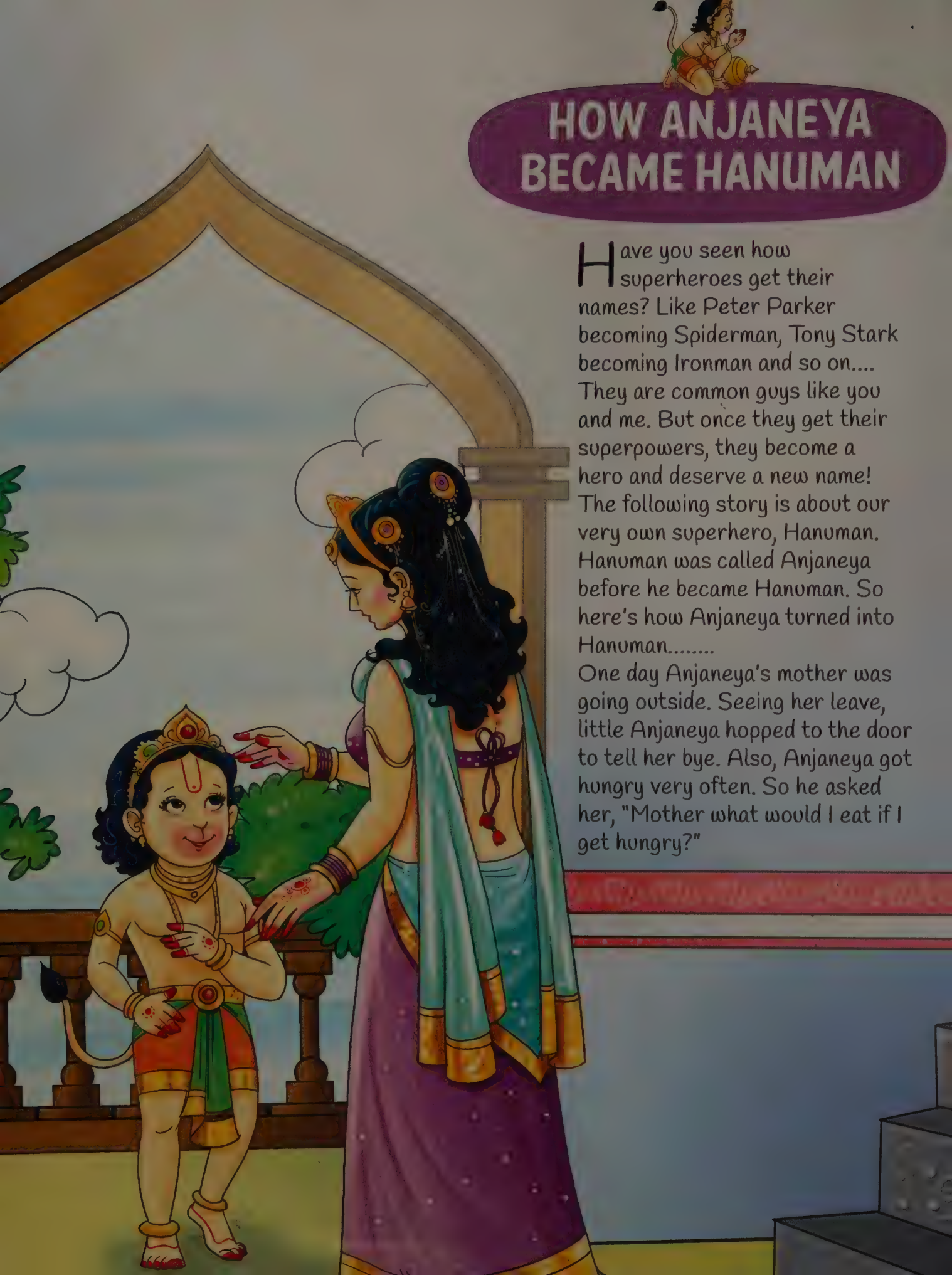
COLOR IT UP!

RAM



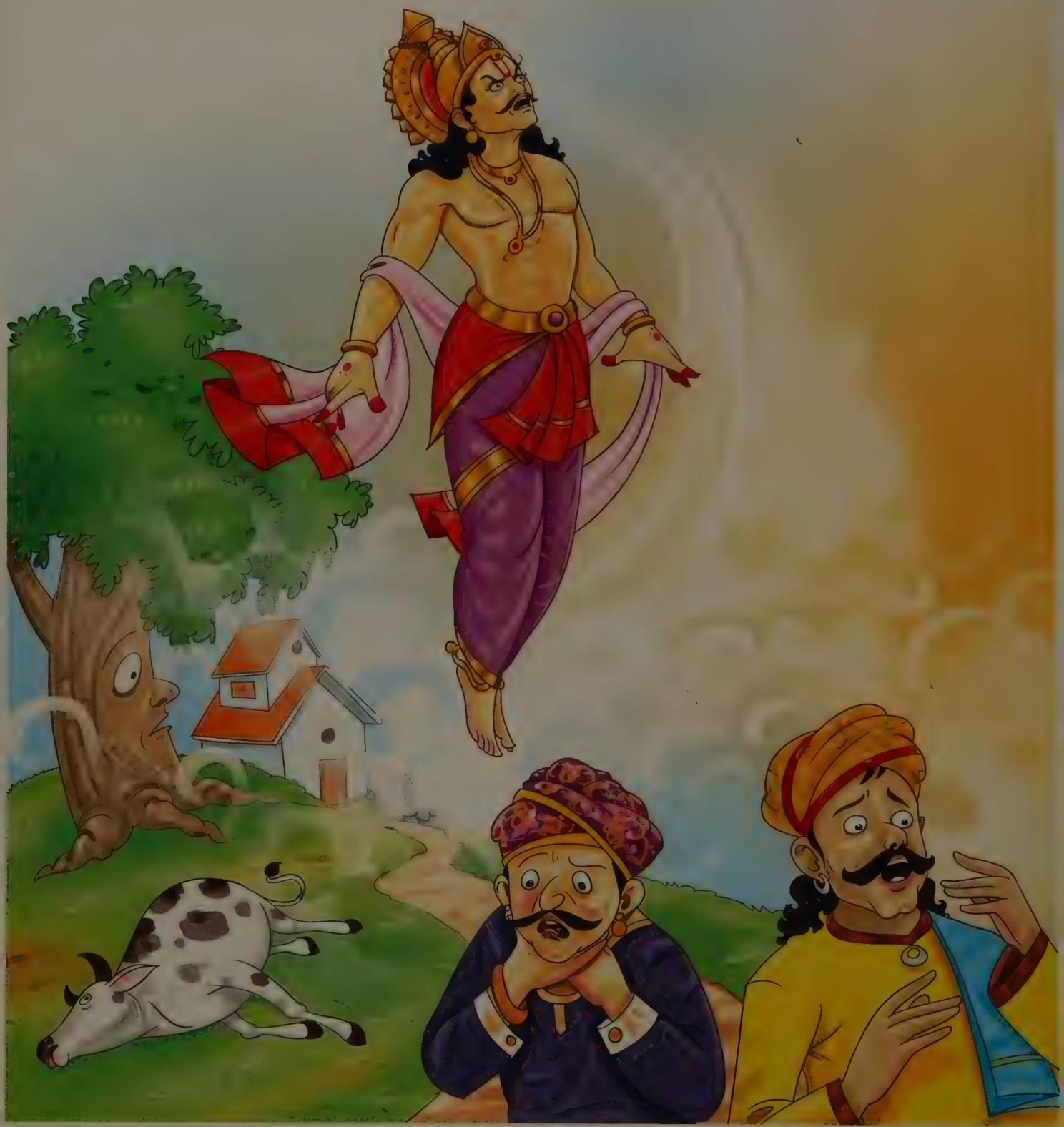
HOW ANJANEYA BECAME HANUMAN

Have you seen how superheroes get their names? Like Peter Parker becoming Spiderman, Tony Stark becoming Ironman and so on.... They are common guys like you and me. But once they get their superpowers, they become a hero and deserve a new name! The following story is about our very own superhero, Hanuman. Hanuman was called Anjaneya before he became Hanuman. So here's how Anjaneya turned into Hanuman.....

One day Anjaneya's mother was going outside. Seeing her leave, little Anjaneya hopped to the door to tell her bye. Also, Anjaneya got hungry very often. So he asked her, "Mother what would I eat if I get hungry?"

His mother smiled and said, "Well, you can have fruits Anjaneya. I'll bring back something nice to eat for you. Bye!"
"Wait", said Anjaneya stopping her. "What fruits should I eat?"
"Anything...ummm...anything that looks bright red and yellow like the sun. Yes, you can have any fruit which looks like the sun!" giggled Anjaneya's mother as she patted him, and left.
No sooner did she leave than Anjaneya started feeling hungry. He thought about what he should eat. Suddenly the bright sun shining outside caught his eyes. He decided that he should eat the sun itself! Anyway, not any amount of fruits could satisfy his hunger. So with this very idea, little Anjaneya leapt into the skies, heading right towards the sun.
Anjaneya was born with the blessings of Pawan, the wind god. So naturally he had some special powers. As he approached the blazing sun he saw an Asura (demon) approaching the sun too. This Asura was named Rahu and he had a grudge against the sun. So Rahu wanted to swallow the sun as well. But Anjaneya was in no mood to share his meal. He stopped him and Rahu fought back. Rahu was soon overpowered by Anjaneya. Rahu at once went to Indra and told him about this boy wanting to eat the sun.
Indra at once rushed to see what was happening. He was spell-bound! He saw Anjaneya, a little boy nearing the sun. The sun was scorching, setting off fiery blazes. However, the boy didn't seem affected. He was getting closer and closer to the sun. Indra didn't give a second thought and threw his Vajrayudha (a weapon of thunderbolt) at Anjaneya. The Vajrayudha knocked him out and he fell through the skies back to earth. At this moment, Pawan saw Anjaneya and caught him before he hit the ground.

Taking him in his arms Pawan saw that Anjaneya wasn't moving, and maybe not breathing as well.
"My little Anjaneya! Please talk to me" cried Pawan, but Anjaneya didn't move. Pawan was heartbroken. Soon he got angry and thought, "My son is dead. There's no reason for me to live the way I did." At once he stood up in the skies and sucked in the atmosphere of air around the earth. There was no air to breathe! Everybody started praying to Brahma. Brahma at once appeared before Pawan.



"What are you doing Pawan? Do you want to kill everybody?" asked Brahma with anger.
"I'm killing people? Ok. What about this little boy who died without doing anything wrong? He was attacked unarmed. What do you have to say about that Brahma?" cried out Pawan.
Brahma came to know what had happened. He called in Indra at once, who after arriving stood before Pawan like a helpless kitten. Brahma pushed Indra and he muttered an apology to Pawan, "I'm sorry."
Pawan wasn't moved. He was still unable to accept that Anjaneya had died. Brahma at once used his powers to heal Anjaneya. In a second, Anjaneya sat up rubbing his eyes. He stared with big eyes at the three gods before him.
"Son" said Brahma. "I've healed you. But I'm unable to fix your jaw that was hurt by the Vajrayudha. From now on you'll be called Hanuman, which means 'one with the broken chin'. But don't you worry. We'll bless you with powers."
Saying this, Brahma granted Hanuman with protection from Brahmastra—a very powerful weapon. Indra blessed him with immortality. For Pawan, he'd happily returned air back to earth and life was normal again. He too blessed Hanuman.
So that's how Anjaneya became the superhero we all know—Hanuman!

2CRKJF
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USE THE CLUES TO SOLVE THE CROSSWORD

DOWN:

1. Hanuman tried to eat the sun because he was _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
2. Hanuman loves to eat _ _ _ _ _.
3. Hanuman has got a tail and looks like a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
5. _ _ _ _ _ _ hit Hanuman with the thunderbolt weapon.
7. The _ _ _ _ is a ball of fire.

ACROSS:

1. Anjaneya was named _ _ _ _ _ _ _ after being transformed into a superhero.
4. Hanuman was born with the blessings of the wind-god named _ _ _ _ _.
6. The word Hanuman means 'One with the broken _ _ _ _ _ _ _'.

KUMBHAKARAN

FCREK6
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Ravan's brother Kumbhkaran was like a giant, ferocious Grizzly Bear. He slept for six months and when he woke up, he would eat like a monster. It was very difficult to wake him while he slept. When Ravan needed him for the war, his soldiers blew trumpets and tickled his belly to wake him up.

SPOT THE 15 DIFFERENCES

DISCOVERING DELHI

Spot the Sparrows of the Capital City!

Did you know?

In 2014, Delhi Metro was ranked 2nd best in the world!

HUMAYUN'S TOMB

This is the burial place of Humayun, the 2nd Mughal Emporer to rule the empire! It was completed in 1572 AD. After his death, his first wife, Bega Begum, was so sad, that she spent the rest of her life building this magnificent tomb in his memory. This red sandstone structure is now a very popular tourist spot.

House Sparrow

The State Bird of Delhi. Can you count all the sparrows in this spread?

CHANDNI CHOWK

Also called the Moonlight Square, this is one of the oldest markets in India. It was designed by Shah Jahan's favourite daughter Jahanara Begum in 1650 AD and had 1560 shops! Now it is a popular hub with famous land marks like Karims (an old restaurent famous for kebabs), Paranthe Wali Gali, Kinari Bazaar (the wedding market) and Khari Baoli (Asia's largest Spice Market)!

Festive Capital

Delhi is a city that likes to celebrate! Festivals like Holi, Eid, Diwali, Guruparv, Christmas, and many, many more, are all celebrated with a lot of gusto. So its a party all year round!

YAMUNA RIVER
QUTAB MINAR
This very tall and very old minaret was built by Qutab-ud-din Aibak in 1192 AD. It has survived many lightning strikes and 2 earthquakes! The tower is so high that you need to climb 379 steps to reach the top.
JANTAR MANTAR
The Jantar Mantar is a massive sundial that was built in 1724 by Maharaja Jai Singh II, of Jaipur. It can tell the time and also map the positions of various heavenly bodies. The name Jantar Mantar in itself means "Calculation Instrument." What do you think? Pretty cool, huh?
Street Food
Delhi is a paradise for street food lovers. It is home to mouth watering delicacies like Chaat, Chole bhature, Pav Bhaji and many more. Which of these treats have you tried?
INDIA GATE
India Gate is one of the largest War Memorials in India. Completed in 1931, it is dedicated to the 82,000 Indian soldiers who fought for the British Army in World War I. The monument has 13,300 servicemen's names etched on its walls!
PARANTHEWALI GALI
परांठे वाली गली
HOW MANY SPRARROWS ARE THERE?
Ans:

The Jataka Katha are very old and interesting stories that teach us valuable lessons about our life. It is said that these stories are about the past life of Lord Buddha, the enlightened master.

Jataka Katha

NEVER GIVE UP!

This is a story of how you must never give up no matter how much trouble you are in.

Once upon a time, there was a trader. He used to buy things that were cheap in one city, and take it to far away places where he would sell them for a higher price. In those days, there were no trucks or trains. He had a big team of people to help him carry these goods on camels and bullocks.

In one of these trips, they carried their goods far far away. They kept on traveling until they reached a very hot desert. During daytime, the desert was hot and its sand burned like fire. This made their journey difficult.

"What can we do?" They all wondered.
"How about we travel at night?" Someone said.
"But how would we know our way in the dark?" someone else said.
"What if we get lost and go round and round in the desert?" said someone else.
But the trader was a good leader... And like all good leaders, he was going to find a way to cross this desert.

The leader found a special man, a guide who had lived near the desert for a long enough time, to be able to navigate through the desert at nighttime.

The guide helped them travel in the night. At the end of the third day, everyone ate their dinner and waited for the stars. When it became dark, they called for the guide. But he was nowhere to be seen. Finally, they found him, snoring very close to where they had set up camp. The guide had eaten so much food that he had fallen asleep.

"What can we do now?' they wondered.
They did not want to wait, nor did they want to give up!

They decided to follow the bullocks. The bullocks kept turning round and round, and the people kept following them. When morning finally came, they saw that they were back exactly where they had started. They had walked the whole night in a big wide circle.

Everyone was disappointed, and to make matters worse the sun was up and it was hot again. The group was tired and thirsty and they had finished all their water! They said angrily to the leader, "It's all your fault. What should we do now?"

Quivering with fear, the trader remembered, "I am the leader. I CANNOT give up."

Then he saw a clump of grass. He knew that in order for plants to grow they need air, sunlight, and water. "If there is grass, there must be water here too that makes it grow!" he said. He called some of his strong men and asked them to dig the spot. The men dug and dug but they just found sand.

Finally, they hit something. It was just a big rock, no water. "What a waste of time! They said throwing their tools away. We GIVE UP!"

But the leader shouted, knowing that they would surely die without water, "No, No! You CANNOT give up!"

He put his ear to the stone and he heard a faint sound. That was the sound of running water! He called to one of his men and said, "I need you to be strong. Don't give up. Hit the rock as hard as you can. You CAN do it"

The young man was happy the leader chose him. "I CAN do it", he said softly. He lifted the hammer high and hit the rock. The water gushed out like a fountain, as the rock cracked and then split into two separate pieces.

The water pooled in the large hole that the trader's men had dug up. They collected the water and drank it, bathed in it, and cooked food with it.

They could now cross the desert and sell all their goods. It was a good thing that they didn't give up!

FIND THE GIVEN WORDS IN THE CAMEL

Desert	Leader	Sand	Camel	Bullock
Jatak	Trader	Fountain	Water	Dark

VICTORIA MEMORIAL

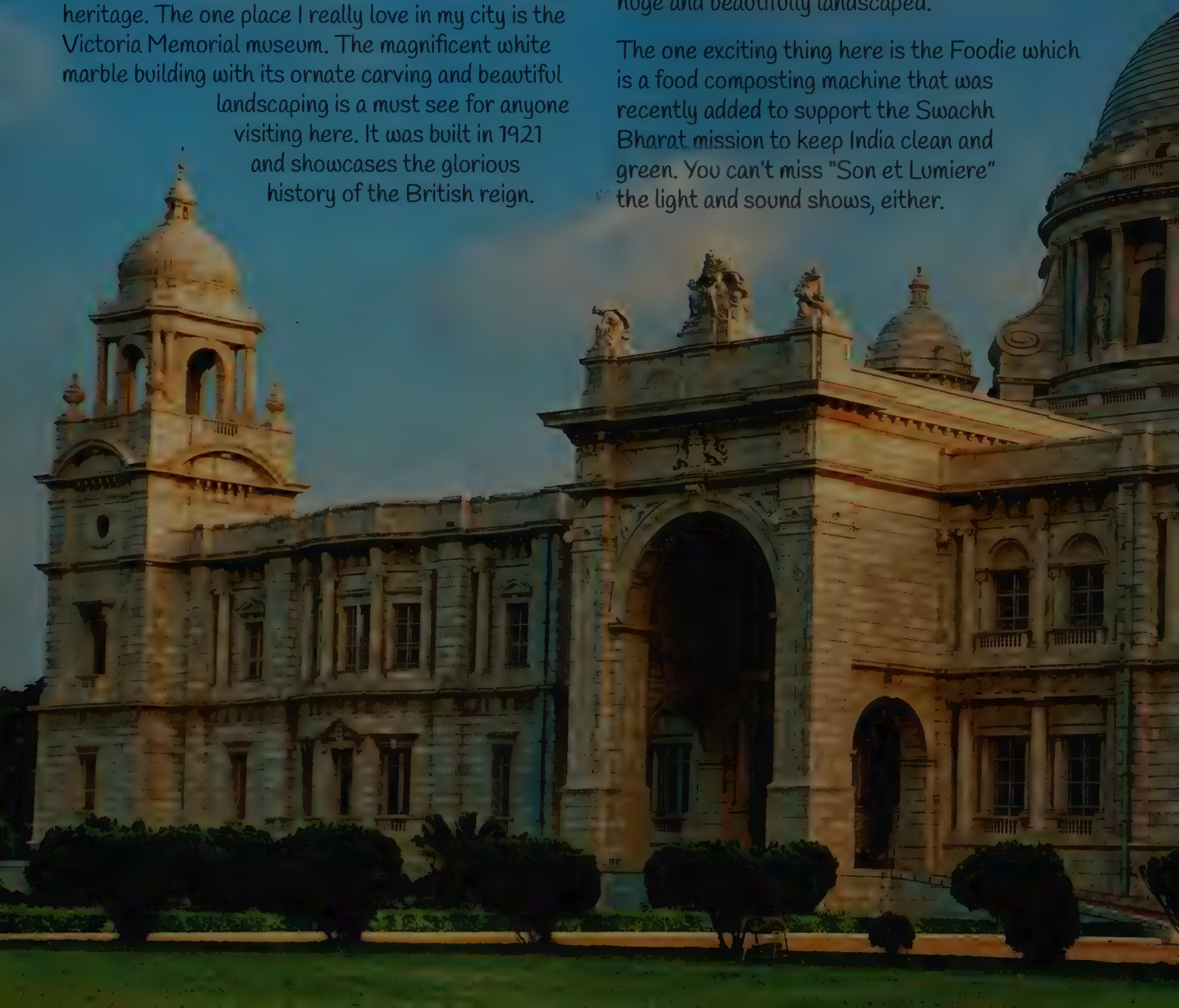
Namoshkar (Hello), I am Debu from Kolkata which is also known as the city of joy.

I want to tell you about this wonderful city where great personalities like Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore were born. Mother Teresa, the famous saint also embraced this city as her home.

Kolkata has a rich literary, artistic and revolutionary heritage. The one place I really love in my city is the Victoria Memorial museum. The magnificent white marble building with its ornate carving and beautiful landscaping is a must see for anyone visiting here. It was built in 1921 and showcases the glorious history of the British reign.

There are beautiful paintings and artifacts from the British Raj in India like coins, pottery, weapons, stamps, dinnerware. I spend hours going through the amazing collection. There are pictures and statues of great Indian personalities as well as the British personalities. The architecture with grand dome, long hallways supported by the majestic pillars and intricate carvings is breathtaking. The lawns are huge and beautifully landscaped.

The one exciting thing here is the Foodie which is a food composting machine that was recently added to support the Swachh Bharat mission to keep India clean and green. You can't miss "Son et Lumiere" the light and sound shows, either.



Outside the boundaries of the museum we love to eat the yummy fast foods like kaathi rolls (flatbread rolls stuffed with either vegetable or egg or mutton or chicken filling), Jhaalmuri (puffed rice with spices), Puchkas (deep fried crepe with tamarind sauce), Beguni (fried battered eggplant). You have to try the mouthwatering desserts like Roshogullas (cottage cheese balls dipped in sugar syrup), Sondesh (sweet moist fudge made from cottage cheese) and Mishti Dohi (sweet yogurt).

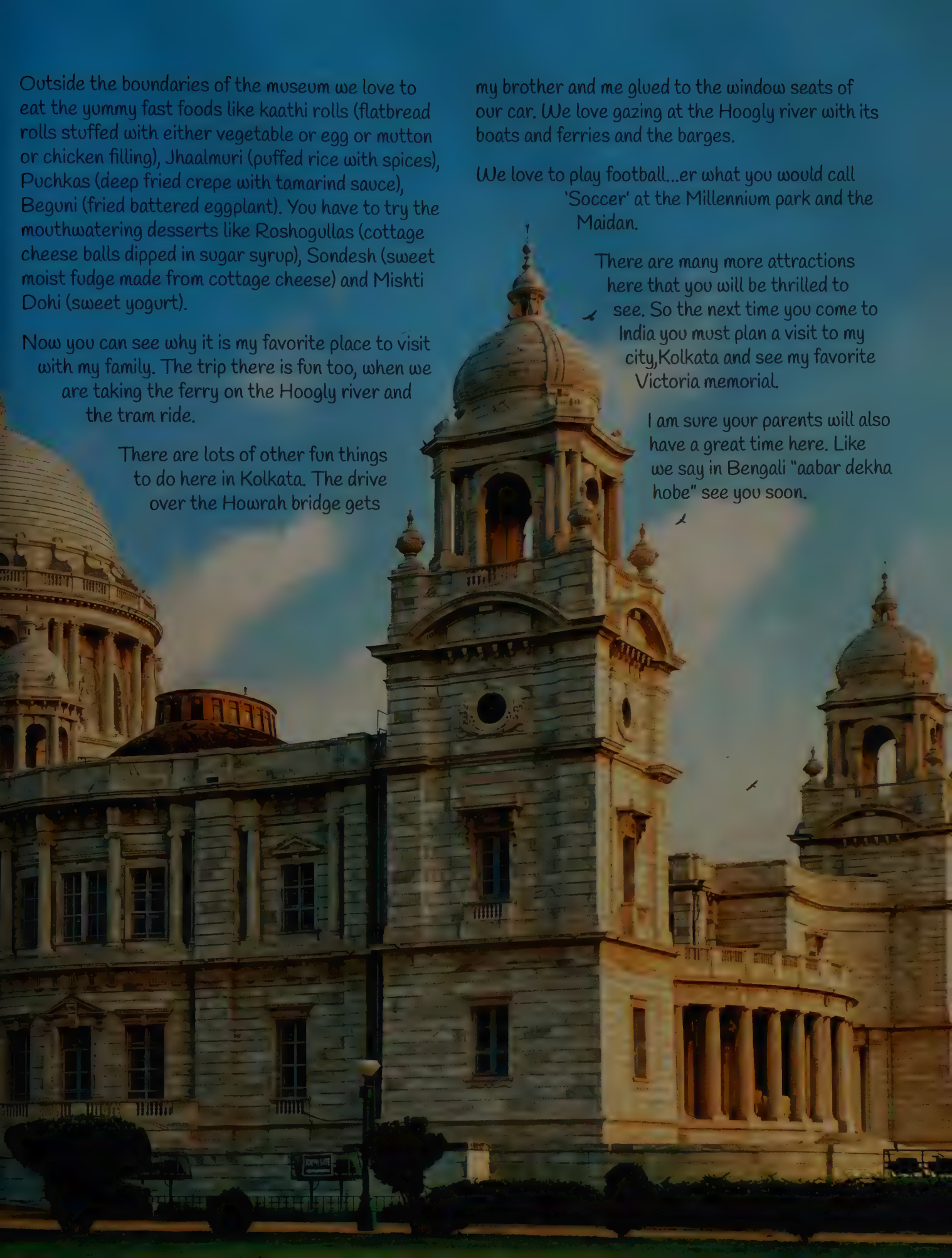
Now you can see why it is my favorite place to visit with my family. The trip there is fun too, when we are taking the ferry on the Hoogly river and the tram ride.

There are lots of other fun things to do here in Kolkata. The drive over the Howrah bridge gets my brother and me glued to the window seats of our car. We love gazing at the Hoogly river with its boats and ferries and the barges.

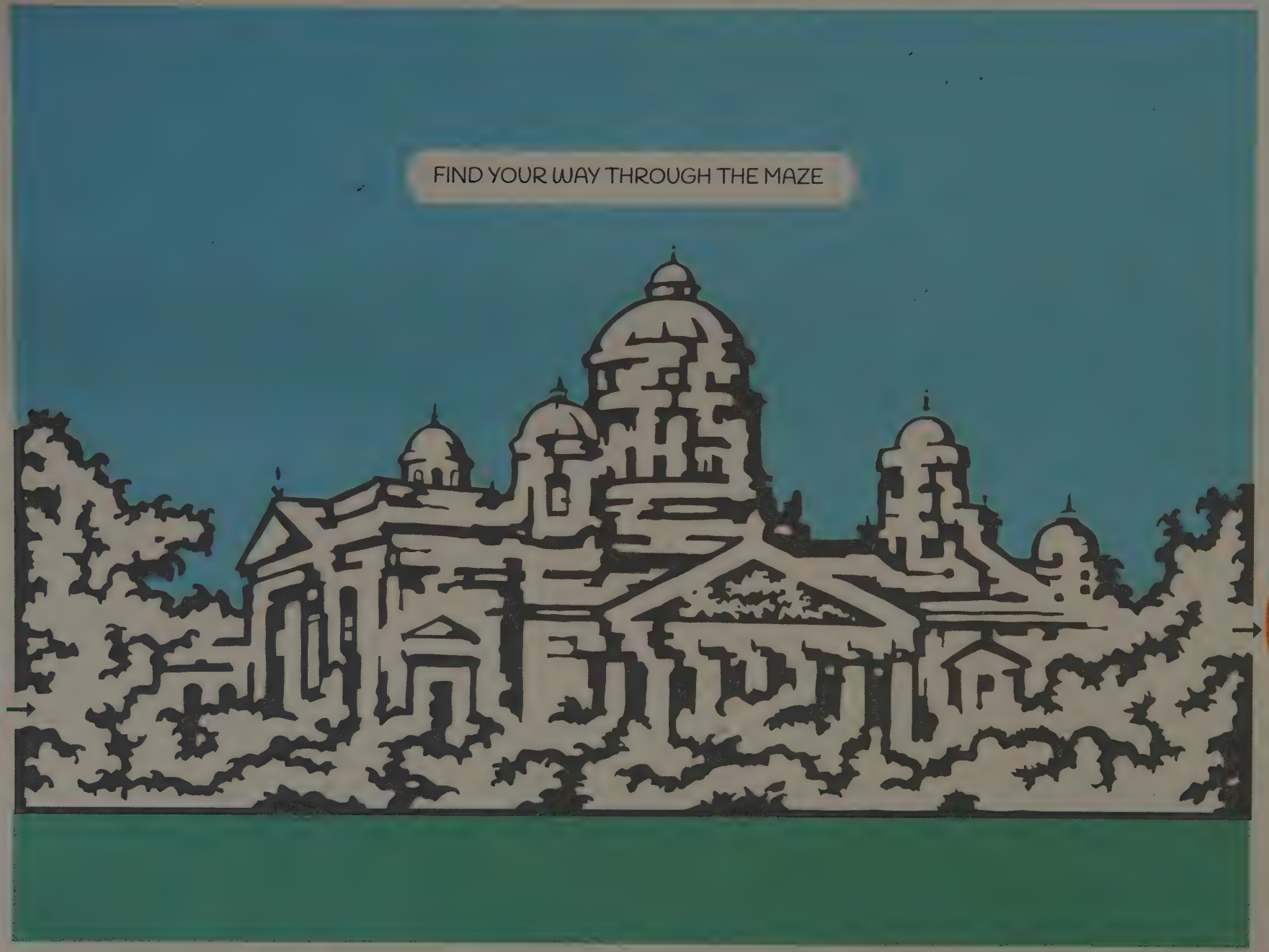
We love to play football...er what you would call 'Soccer' at the Millennium park and the Maidan.

There are many more attractions here that you will be thrilled to see. So the next time you come to India you must plan a visit to my city,Kolkata and see my favorite Victoria memorial.

I am sure your parents will also have a great time here. Like we say in Bengali "aabar dekha hobe" see you soon.



FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE



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PALKHI

Do you know how the princesses and queens used to travel hundreds of years ago? They used a Palkhi. In Indian tradition, the bride was carried inside a Palkhi on weddings like in the picture shown below. Ask your mom if she travelled in a Palkhi when she got married.

Akbar Birbal

A HEAVENLY SHAVE

Akbar was a great admirer of Birbal. This made his courtiers and attendants jealous of Birbal. With the help of the court barber, they hatched a plot to get rid of him.
One day while trimming the Emperor's beard, the barber said,"Huzoor! Last night I saw your father in my dreams."
Akbar's eyes opened wide with interest.
Fanning his emotions the barber continued,"Huzoor, your father said to me that everything is fine and great in Heaven but....."
"But? But what!" the Emperor pushed aside his hand which held the scissors, and looked at him in great concern.
The barber furtively looked here and there, and in a hushed voice whispered into the Emperor's ears, "Jahanpanah there is no one to amuse him. He is missing a humorous company."
Now Akbar could only think of Birbal. He knew that the way to reach heaven was only death. A moment he was sad, but thinking of his father, he made up his mind.

He summoned Birbal and said, "I know Birbal you love me very much and you can sacrifice anything for me."
Birbal tried to read the king's mind, but could not guess anything. He said,"Yes, I do." "Then Birbal, please go to heaven to entertain my father," Akbar entreated.
Birbal understood the wicked plan, but politely agreed saying,"I will do so, but I need time to prepare myself to go to heaven."
The king readily gave him a week's time.
Now Birbal was worried. He new that he could not escape from this situation.
He racked his brain hard and finally found a solution.

He dug a ditch near his house which would serve as his grave, and made a tunnel from the ditch that led to a room in is house. He completed this in one week and returned to the court.
To Akbar, he said pleasantly,"Your Majesty, I am ready, but I have two conditions. First, I wish to be buried near my house. And second, I wish to be buried alive so that I can reach heaven alive to amuse your father."
The king considered it as his last wish and agreed promptly.
So Birbal was buried alive near his house. As planned he escaped through the tunnel and lived in confinement for six months.
Then one day, he came out of the hiding with long beard and shabby hair. He asked permission to appear in the royal court.
Everyone was surprised to see him. Akbar's eyes

widened with wonder and delight. Anxiously he asked Birbal about his trip to heaven.
Birbal replied," Your Majesty, I had a very good time there. Your father was so happy with my services that he gave me special permission to return to Earth."
Akbar was overwhelmed,"Did he send any message for me?"
Birbal answered,"Yes, he has asked you to send your own barber to him immediately as there is no barber in the heaven."
Then running his fingers through his beard, with a sheepish smile, he continued,"You can see this from my grown beard and shabby hair."
Akbar understood everything. He rewarded Birbal, and gave a life sentence to the wicked barber.

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FIND THE GIVEN WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH GRID

heaven | tunnel | wicked | barber

akbar | birbal | huzoor | beard

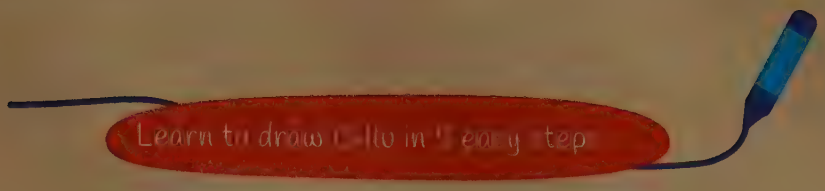
H	E	A	V	E	N	X	R	T	A	H	I
T	U	N	N	E	L	W	N	T	X	N	J
C	J	Z	I	U	W	E	P	T	U	C	R
G	E	R	O	V	Q	H	G	T	J	L	Q
O	Q	T	W	O	D	U	F	W	S	P	B
E	Z	N	B	A	R	B	E	R	J	T	Y
U	G	J	W	I	C	K	E	D	J	A	X
O	V	M	E	H	R	E	W	N	V	Q	A
P	K	S	R	B	H	B	E	A	R	D	W
S	U	F	O	X	J	W	A	K	B	A	R
D	U	Q	D	M	O	D	W	L	W	G	T
E	A	N	Q	J	E	X	Y	P	O	W	P

Hello, boys and girls, I'm Gillu and I'm an Indian Squirrel. I'm a lot tinier than my cousins from America. We are usually no bigger than foot rulers, but our antics make up for our size. We're different from our American cousins in another important aspect. All of us have three black lines across their backs. My granddad told me that Lord Ram gave it to us. Lord Ram was building a bridge to Sri Lanka. To make the bridge, the monkey army carved Ram's name on rocks and threw them into the sea. One of our forefather squirrels saw this and joined them in work. He took pebbles and started filling in the gaps between the big rocks. Ram saw him working hard with his tiny hands and stroked his back. And this is how we have the stripes from Ram's fingers...Hehe!

We love running around at top speed and are excellent athletes. In India, you'd often see us do a tightrope walk on power lines, jump, dive and run over people's houses. The thing is, we don't mean any harm. We're just playful and love our fun. Hollywood should hire us some time. We're sort of like Quicksilver from X-men. The world is too slow for us.....Zoom....Zoom.....Zoom.

I love spending my days hunting for nuts. I love nuts more than anything else in the world, but also love nibbling at Neem fruits, mangoes and almost anything sweet. I love having my own cupboard of food at home and spend a lot of my time collecting food to stash. I hate it when other birds or squirrels come and steal my yummy goodies and can get pretty protective...grrrr!

You can always find us with our chirping calls, which we make to chat with each other. We usually make great pets as kids. You could feed us some nuts and cuddle us and we'd be your best friends.


Learn to draw Squirrel in 5 easy steps

1
2
3
4
5

What is a cat's favorite color?
Purrr-ple
What has four wheels and flies?
A garbage truck!
What do you call a cow that can play a musical instrument?
A moo-sician
What do you give to a sick lemon?
Lemon aid!
Teacher: Why are you doing your multiplication on the floor?
Student: You told me not to use tables.

What is the fruitiest subject at school?
History, because it's full of dates!
What do you give a sick bird?
Tweetment!
What do you do if a teacher rolls her eyes at you?
Pick them up and roll them back
What kind of nuts always seems to have a cold?
Cashews!
Why did the computer squeak?
Because someone stepped on it's mouse!

Aunty Bindi's Riddles

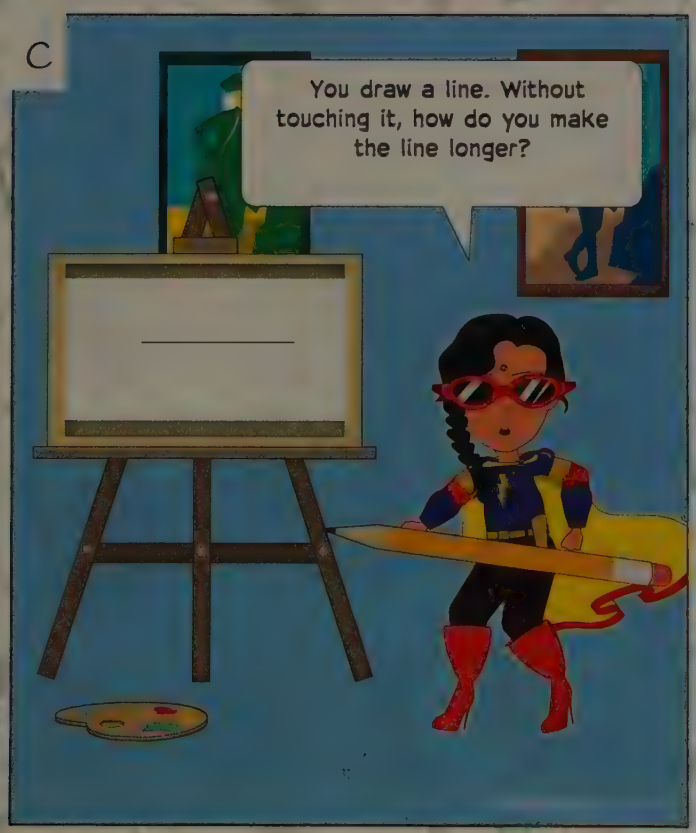
A

In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower-- everything was pink! What color were the stairs?
MEOW!!

B

Two mothers and two daughters went out to eat, everyone ate one burger, yet only three burgers were eaten in all. How is this possible?

C



D

QUIZ TIME!

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Activity Solutions

WCSHQE
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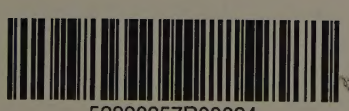
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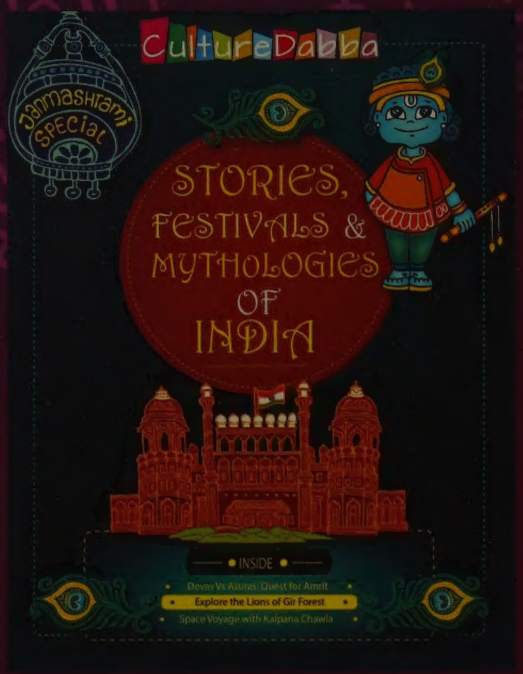

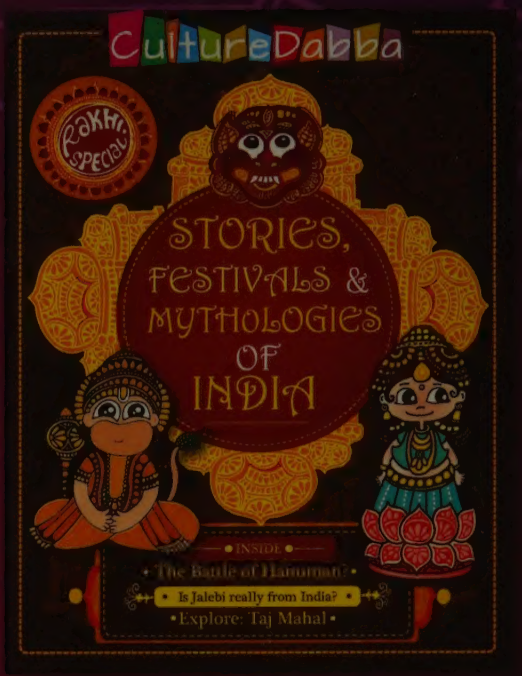

CultureDabba

How do I make my children appreciate their own culture? How do I teach Indian values to my little ones? How do I explain the stories behind India's numerous festivals? If you have these concerns for your children, then CultureDabba is your ideal pick! CultureDabba aims to blend Indian Culture with things that mean fun to children. It brings a collection of festivals, stories and interesting facts about India. The curated articles come along with brain stimulating and interesting activities.

The book creates a perfect opportunity for you to spend quality time with your children. Read out with your children; ask them what they understood from a page. Solve the games and riddles and help them if they get stuck. Try calling in your children's friends and other family members to make a lively session.

The idea behind CultureDabba lies with Indian families living abroad who felt a similar need for educating their children while encountering the challenge of making it fun. Also, be assured of quality, because our final call in quality assessment is taken by a bunch of beloved juniors!

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For more information, visit
www.CultureDabba.com

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Trisha Bose | Swetank Sinha | Vaibhav Gupta | Cover design: Rajika Sen

ISBN 9781549686160
W8-BCG-140